

Environmental Fact Sheet



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 10

February 2001

Public Comment Period Reopened March 7 to April 6, 2001 For Hazardous Waste Permit Modifications

United States Department of Energy - **Hanford
Federal Facility**
Richland Operations Office
EPA/Ecology ID No. WA7 8900 8967

Background

In October, 1999, EPA proposed changes to the federal hazardous waste management permit issued to the U.S. Department of Energy (Energy) for operations at the Hanford Federal Facility. In part, this proposed modification was intended to transfer corrective action authority under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) from EPA to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), under the state's authorized corrective action program.

At the same time that EPA proposed permit modifications to remove existing corrective action permit conditions, Ecology proposed modifications to the state portion of the Hanford permit to include new state corrective action permit conditions. On March 28, 2000, Ecology finalized these changes. Energy appealed the Ecology corrective action modifications to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB).

On December 8, 2000, the PCHB issued a legal order called a "Stipulation and Agreed Order of Dismissal" in which Energy and Ecology settled the appeal. In this order, PCHB specifies that Energy may defer litigation on whether Ecology can impose corrective action obligations on Energy with respect to:

- (1) property subleased to U.S. Ecology, Inc,
- (2) CERCLA (Superfund) Past Practice Units

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Public Comment Opportunity

You are encouraged to comment on the modification of the Hanford Facility RCRA permit. The comment period will be reopened for thirty days beginning **March 7 and ending April 6, 2001**. EPA is soliciting additional comments on its proposal because the PCHB Order changes the basis for EPA's proposal to delete existing corrective action conditions from the EPA portion of the Hanford site-wide permit from that supporting the original proposal. Although the basis for EPA's original proposal has changed sufficiently to warrant additional public comment, EPA supports the changes made by Ecology in the Order of Dismissal, and is not changing its proposal to remove existing federal corrective action conditions.

EPA requests your comments on its proposal to delete existing corrective action conditions **only to the extent that it is affected by the new settlement language**. EPA is not accepting additional comments on other elements of its October 1999 proposal. All comments received during the public comment period will be considered and responded to before final decisions are made on the proposed conditions. Ecology is reopening comment on its corrective action permit conditions as modified by the settlement in a separate action. EPA and Ecology invite you to comment on these permit conditions.

The deadline for all comments is **April 6, 2001**. Please send your comments on EPA's proposal to:

Dave Bartus, U.S. EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, M/S: WCM-127
Seattle, Washington 98101
E-mail: bartus.dave@epa.gov

Comments should include all reasonable available references, factual grounds, and supporting material. Please send your comments concerning modifications to the state portion of the Hanford permit directly to the Washington State Department of Ecology as appropriate.

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identified under the Hanford Federal Facility Agreed Consent Order, and
(3) radionuclides regulated under the Atomic Energy Act.

Energy's right to defer litigation is effective until Ecology decides that corrective action under the conditions of the permit is necessary for the items listed above, or affirmatively attempts to regulate the cleanup of radionuclides (regulated under the Atomic Energy Act) through Ecology's corrective action authority.

Where to Find Documents Available for Public Review

Copies of the Stipulation and Agreed Order of Dismissal and copies of Ecology's revised permit conditions may be found in the administrative record. Revised permit conditions are also contained in Ecology's Focus Sheet (enclosed) soliciting comment on the state portion of this coordinated action. The administrative record can be found at:

U.S. EPA Region 10

Office of Waste and Chemicals Management
M/S: WCM-127
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

Contact: Dave Bartus
1-800-424-4372, extension 2804
or (509) 736-5704
E-mail: bartus.dave@epa.gov

Lockheed Martin Services Incorporated

2440 Stevens Center
M/S: H6-08
Richland, Washington 99352

Contact: Debra A. Isom
(509) 376-2530
E-Mail: Debra_A_Debbi_Isom@ri.gov

For More Information

Copies of the Dangerous Waste RCRA Permit for the Hanford Facility and the Stipulation and Agreed Order of Dismissal (Order) are available for review at the public information repositories listed below. The Order is also available at the Nuclear Waste Program web site, <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/op.html#ca>. For additional information, please call the Hanford Cleanup Hotline toll-free at 1-800-321-2008.

**HANFORD PUBLIC INFORMATION
REPOSITORIES****Portland**

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
934 S.W. Harrison and Park
Portland, OR 97207
(503) 725-3690
Attn: Michael Bowman/Jocelyn Kramer
E-mail: bowman@lib.pdx.edu

Richland

Public Reading Room
2770 University Drive
Consolidated Information Center, Rm. 101L
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 372-7443
Attn: Terri Traub
E-mail: reading_room@pnl.gov

Spokane

Gonzaga University
Foley Center
East 502 Boone
Spokane, WA 99258
(509) 323-3839
Attn: Connie Scarpelli
E-mail: carter@its.gonzaga.edu

Seattle

University of Washington Suzallo Library
Government of Publication Division
Seattle, WA 98195
(206) 543-4664
Attn: Eleanor Chase
E-mail: echase@u.washington.edu
Public Service: (206) 543-1937

Information on the Hanford facility is available at the EPA Region 10 website at:
<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>. (Once there, click on "Waste and Chemicals." then click on
"What's New.")

To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to
persons with disabilities by contacting EPA at 1-800-424-4372.



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